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Agricultural Memorandum No 750

The Agricultural Climate of England and Wales

L P Smith

The contents of a forthcoming MAFF Technical Bulletin, with the above title, will include the following agrometeorological parameters evaluated on an areal mean basis:-

On a monthly basis

- Mean Air Temperature
- 30cm Earth Temperature
- Rainfall
- Potential Transpiration
- Sun/PT correction coefficient
- Sunshine
- Day length
- Radiation
- Illumination

On a seasonal basis

(a) Growth factors
- Growing Season.
- Potential Transpiration and Effective Transpiration in the growing season.
- Grazing Season.
- Day-degrees above 10°C, May-October.
- Day-degrees below 0°C, November-February.
- Mean dates of last spring frost (on a 10 day scale).

(b) Water Balance factors
- Maximum summer soil mositure deficit,
- Return to capacity date.
- Excess winter rain.
- End of capacity date.

Irrigation requirements for Plan 3 and Plan 4 (See Hogg's Irrigation Atlas), frequency, mean and maximum adjusted needs.

Areal means have been evaluated for the new agroclimatic areas. Details will be given of variations from place to place (with respect to height or rainfall) and of variations from year to year (usually on a quartile and 10 year extreme basis).

(Note: Some minor amendments have been made to the means for agroclimatic areas already circulated as Ag Mems, but there are no changes of major significance).

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

Meteorological Office
Bracknell
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